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**NOTICE.**  
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of LONDON and CALCUTTA, may be con-  
sulted for SPECTACLES at the HONG-  
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**ONLY**  
**FOR A FEW DAYS MORE.**  
A great proportion of catarrhs and diseases  
affecting the eyes, arising in life to those  
having some deficiency in the construction  
of the eye, like many years of "Eye Strain"  
ending in serious forms of disease. Glasses  
specially adapted in youth to these requiring  
them save and preserve the sight.  
Constantly recurring headaches, spots of  
dimness when reading, weak eyes, the letters  
running together, any of these symptoms indi-  
cate a deficiency in the form of the eye re-  
quiring Glasses only to correct and cure.  
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[2746]

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**A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.**

**THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.**

Hongkong, 12th November, 1896. [22]

**NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.**

ONLY communications relating to the news columns

should be addressed to THE EDITOR.

Correspondents must forward their names and addresses

with communications addressed to the Editor, not

to publication, but to the Editor of the paper.

All letters for publication should be written on one

side of the paper only.

No anonymous or signed communications that have

already appeared in other papers shall be inserted.

Orders for extra copies of DAILY PRESS should be

sent before 11 o'clock on day of publication. After that

time, orders will only be supplied to the Editor. Each

Colin-China. The valley  
of the Mekong is conquered through-  
out a length of nearly 2,000 kilometers  
(1,240 miles). The writer goes on to say  
that he does not know whether his readers  
have any real idea of the importance of this  
news, and requests them to glance at a map  
of the country in order to satisfy themselves  
as to the progress made in riverine navigation  
during the last few years and to take in at  
one view the immense zone thus brought  
under French influence. "I doubt," he con-  
tinues, "if there exists in the annals of  
colonization a record of so much progress  
accomplished in so short a space of time  
and in the face of difficulties that at first  
appeared insuperable."

The French are to be congratulated on  
their enterprise, which, however, is chiefly  
official and political, unsupported by any  
corresponding degree of commercial enter-  
prise. The Mekong-up to the Chinese  
frontier is now a French river, and the  
point to which steam navigation has  
reached is roughly speaking about half-way  
to Luang-Pang and one-third of the way  
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fortunately greatly obstructed by rapids and  
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to serve the local traffic. These, however,  
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through goods-traffic, as the repeated tri-  
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too great. Mr. W. J. ARONER, of the  
Consular Service, who made a journey  
in the Mekong Valley in 1891, spoke very  
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that route, both on account of the difficulties  
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in hand the reorganization of the Chinese army.  
A Berlin correspondent states that this is the  
first practical result to Germany of Li Hung-  
chang's appointment as Minister of Foreign  
Affairs.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* writes—The  
British Minister in China, Macdonald, has  
been able to bring about in the Chinese  
frontier in the Chinese frontier. The case is  
expressed when Sir Claude left for his post  
as apparently being a success. The Chinese  
frontier is now a French river, and the  
point to which steam navigation has  
reached is roughly speaking about half-way  
to Luang-Pang and one-third of the way  
to the Chinese frontier. The river is un-  
fortunately greatly obstructed by rapids and  
it may possibly be found that the limit of  
its continuous navigability has already been  
reached, though small steamers will, no  
doubt in due time be placed on the reaches  
further up between the different obstacles  
to serve the local traffic. These, however,  
would in themselves be of little assistance to  
through goods-traffic, as the repeated tri-  
bunations would render the cost of carriage  
too great. Mr. W. J. ARONER, of the  
Consular Service, who made a journey  
in the Mekong Valley in 1891, spoke very  
discouragingly of the prospects of trade by  
that route, both on account of the difficulties  
of navigation and the country through  
which the river passes being poor, moun-  
tainous, and sparsely populated; and also  
on account of the competition of the route  
from Bangkok via Korat. "Trade," Mr.  
ARONER said, "naturally finds the route  
"best suited to it, and that to Bangkok is  
"the only one of any importance for the  
Mekong Valley from Cambodia to Luang-  
Pang; but when, moreover, the Bur-  
mese Government completes the construc-  
tion of the railway to Korat, which it is  
"about to undertake, neither Cambodia nor  
"Annam can have any chance of competing  
"with Korat for the trade of the Mekong  
"valley. Korat is the natural focus of that  
"country, and there can be no doubt as to  
"its importance as a trade centre nor as to  
"the necessity for railway communication  
"with Bangkok."

The French, however, will continue to  
make strenuous efforts to divert, whither  
trade there may be to the Mekong and  
to push forward the navigation of the  
river to the nearest possible point to the  
Chinese frontier. The difficult rapids at  
Kham, lower down the river, have been  
surmounted by engineering appliances  
by which vessels are hauled past, and it  
may be found possible to overcome the  
rapids in the upper reaches by similar  
means. If it be found impossible to reach  
the Chinese frontier by the river it is not  
improbable that in course of time a railway  
may be made from the limit of navigation  
to the Yunnan frontier town of Siamou,  
which lies near the Mekong, and which has  
been opened as a trading station under the  
recent convention between France and  
China. Mr. COLQUHOUN, it may be remem-  
bered, suggested Siamou as the terminus of  
a railway from Rangoon and Moulemein  
passing through the Siamou Shan States  
of Zimma. The Siamou approach to South-  
western China has now, however, passed  
under French influence. What it may  
be worth remains to be seen, but the  
French seem determined to at least open up  
the route. In so far as their object is to  
promote trade we can only wish them suc-  
cess, but unfortunately French ideas of pro-  
moting trade seem to be limited to imposing  
prohibitive tariffs on foreign goods.

Colombo Chamber is to be cooled  
and ventilated by four electric fans instead  
of punkas.  
Houklong Golf Club—Captain's Cup.—The  
following return was inadvertently omitted  
from the list published on the 6th inst.—Mr.  
P. J. DUDLEY, 95-13-83.

The German Emperor on 2nd November  
granted an audience to Mr. Deiring, Com-  
missioner in the Chinese Imperial Maritime  
Customs, who is about to return to China.

H.M.S. Porpoise with the torpedo-destroyer  
Hart and Mandy arrived at Singapore on  
the 30th November. It is understood  
that the Porpoise will be sent to Hongkong  
during the north-east monsoon and that  
the Porpoise will come on to Hongkong.

Colonel H. Edwards, having been relieved  
in his duties as Commanding Royal Engineer  
Natal by Lieut.-Colonel W. F. N. Noel, has  
been selected for the appointment of Colonel  
on the Staff Commanding Royal Engineers at  
Hongkong, vice Colonel T. H. Anster, retired.

Colonel Henry Payne Moore, lately Deputy  
Commissioner-General of Ordnance, died in  
London on 31st October, aged 68 years. He served  
with the 1st Battalion of the 1st Regiment of  
Foot Guards during the Crimean War, and  
was awarded the medal and during the  
operations against the Tadjiks in the vicinity  
of Shanghai in 1902.

M. Henri Eyraud, a French journalist, who  
was in China as special correspondent for a  
French paper two or three years ago, has been  
nominated Consul at Oboon, on the Mekong.  
M. Eyraud has married a lady of some social  
rank. He is expected to arrive at his new post  
in March next.

The house papers describe General Relatien  
as the successor of General







